

BA-1613  
Green Spring Punch  
Mr. Samuel Berg  
Valley Road  
Stevenson, Maryland 21153

(private)

The property contains several historic structures built close together which are representative of three different architectural periods. The oldest, dating from pre-Revolutionary times, is an enormous stone barn listed in the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment Record. It was built by Samuel Owings whose family was actively involved in community and county affairs for generations. The barn is the oldest in the district and of the many barns recorded in 1798 in Maryland this one is one of the largest if not the largest.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1613

x-879.420  
y-575.340  
A x-879.360  
B y-575.320  
x-879.360  
y-575.060

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MAGI # 0316132235

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

GREEN SPRING PUNCH

AND/OR COMMON

Berg Farm

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Valley Road and Old Valley Road

Second

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stevenson

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Samuel Berg

Telephone #: 484-1111

STREET & NUMBER

Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Stevenson

VICINITY OF

Maryland 21153

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courts Bldg.

Liber #: 2962

Folio #: 278

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson,

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The most important historic structure on the Berg property is the BARN. Other historic structures include a small STONE HOUSE, a stone dairy house, stone and log smoke house and a frame FARM HOUSE.

The BARN is of stone and it measures approximately 40 by 80 feet, corresponding to a stone barn of those dimensions identified for this property in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. Physical examination of the existing barn indicates that it probably is the barn recorded in 1798.

A wide tall doorway is centered in each long side, north and south. A segmental arch supports the masonry above. Two storeys of smaller openings are on either side. On the north side the openings are small louvred windows, the lower ones closed with shutters. On the south side the openings in the lower storey are doors to stalls. While the woodwork associated with these openings is not original the long wrought iron strap hinges may be original.

Inside the central space is open clear to the roof; lofts are on either side above stalls in the ground storey. The hewn braced-frame timber roof framing is all original although many horizontal ties have been cut. Principal tie beams occur periodically at the eave level and they support queen posts which, in turn, support roof purlins. Secondary ties connect the purlins at the queen posts with diagonal braces between the secondary ties and the queen posts. Longitudinal beams extend from principal tie to principal tie near the long walls and they support outlookers which extend over the wall to receive the rafters. The rough open sheathing is probably original although no nails were visible to make this determination.

The small STONE HOUSE measures approximately 20 by 40 feet. Its principal front is to the west. It is one and one-half storey in height and a chimney rises through the middle of its gabled roof. An enclosed porch extends across its west front and two dormers are in the roof. The interior was not accessible for inspection so no determination can be made of its age. It appears to date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. No stone house of these dimensions has been identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax.

STATE: IANCO

GREEN SPRING PUNCH (Berg)

Page 2

The stone dairy house is of one storey, approximately 10 by 12 feet and it has a hipped (nearly a pyramidal) roof. The beaded fascia on the north side is probably original. It is probably contemporary with the Stone House.

The smoke house has stone first storey walls and log second storey walls. The wide door in the south wall is probably the original and the absence of a west wall is related to its conversion as an automobile garage. This structure is probably contemporary with the Stone House.

The frame FARM HOUSE is two and one half storeys in height, its principal facade to the south, with a long north wing extending behind its west end. A one storey porch extends across its south front and wide bay windows flank the centered entrance. The interior was not accessible for inspection so no determination can be made of its age. It appears to date from ca. 1900.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD**☐ PREHISTORIC☐ 1400-1499☐ 1500-1599☐ 1600-1699☒ 1700-1799☐ 1800-1899☐ 1900-☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC☐ AGRICULTURE☒ ARCHITECTURE☐ ART☐ COMMERCE☐ COMMUNICATIONS**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING☐ CONSERVATION☐ ECONOMICS☐ EDUCATION☐ ENGINEERING☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT☐ INDUSTRY☐ INVENTION☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE☐ LAW☐ LITERATURE☐ MILITARY☐ MUSIC☐ PHILOSOPHY☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT☐ RELIGION☐ SCIENCE☐ SCULPTURE☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN☐ THEATER☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

THE BARN is the oldest barn in the district, the only barn in the district identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax record and one of the very few barns identified in that tax record and still standing. Of the many barns recorded in 1798 in Maryland this one is one of the largest if not the largest. Typically barns of that period were small, the great barns so characteristic of Maryland usually dating from the first half of the nineteenth century.

The small Stone House and the supporting outbuildings illustrate a typical early farm complex and they are among the earliest structures in the district.

The larger frame Farm House illustrates later prosperity, an example of the early twentieth century American Colonial revival.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Punch Farm / Berg Farm)

The present Berg property contains several historic structures built close together which are representative of three different architectural periods. The oldest, dating from pre-Revolutionary times, is an enormous stone barn listed in the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment Record. It was built by Samuel Owings whose family was actively involved in community and county affairs for generations. An early nineteenth century 1 1/2 story stone cottage stands nearby. It was home to members of the Owings family as well as the Stevenson family for whom the surrounding community was named. In the late nineteenth century a three-story frame house with sweeping verandah was constructed by Dr. William Lee. At that time he was the surgeon-general for the State of Maryland.

These buildings all stand on part of the land tract Green Spring Punch and for over 100 years the history of this land parallels that of another Green Spring Punch owned today by H. Norman Baetjer, Jr. Green Spring Punch consisted of 386 acres when it was surveyed in 1702 for Thomas Bale.<sup>1/</sup> At his death in 1707/8 the land went to his sister Hannah (Bale) Randall.<sup>2/</sup> At her death, c. 1727, 186 acres was left to her daughter Urath.<sup>3/</sup> In her will, Hannah remarked that her daughter's property included "the plantation that is now thereon."

Urath Randall married in 1730 Samuel Owings and they and their twelve children lived on the Green Spring Punch property.<sup>4/</sup> By reason of marriage, inheritance, survey, and purchase, Owings was one of the largest land owners in Baltimore County. By 1763 he owned 2,742 acres.<sup>5/</sup>

When Owings died in 1775, by his will he left "my dwelling plantation (Green Spring Punch) that is now cleared with the houses, Orchard, Improvements and appurtenances thereto belonging" to his wife Urath.<sup>6/</sup> His other holdings were distributed among his children. One inventory of his personal estate, made a year after his death, was assigned a value of 1,533.13.11 1/2.<sup>7/</sup> Among the items was a large quantity of lumber; 25 dozen assorted chairs; 143 pounds of rawhides; 85 pounds of tanned leather; a pair of millstones; and two grindstones. He had maintained a working farm and a saw and gristmill with the labor of his 15 slaves.

On 28 May 1790 Samuel Owings, Jr., bought all 286 acres of Green Spring Punch from his widowed mother and leased the property to her for her lifetime.<sup>8/</sup> About the time of Urath's death in 1792, Samuel Owings III and his wife Ruth Cockey took up residence and he officially inherited the property at his father's death in 1803.<sup>9/</sup>

In 1798 Samuel Owings III was listed in the Federal Tax Assessment Record as owing 849 acres, including the 286 acres of Green Spring Punch.<sup>10/</sup> On this tract he had: 1 log stables, 22 x 28 feet; 1 frame stable, 12 x 16 feet; 1 corn house, 12 x 30 feet; 1 frame granary, 20 x 52 feet; 1 old frame dwelling, 1 story, 16 x 40 feet; 1 log kitchen, 16 x 20 feet; hen house; meat house, 10 x 12 feet; 1 Negro house, 16 x 18 feet; and 1 stone barn, 40 x 80 feet. Presumably the old frame dwelling was the Owings residence, possible dating back to the one mentioned in Hannah Randall's will. The only structure remaining today is the barn.

When Samuel Owings III died in 1828, he left his wife Ruth "one-third of my dwelling plantation, . . . to include the dwelling-barn, saw mill, and other improvements attached to my present residence." At her death this was to pass to daughter Deborah. All of his other buildings were distributed among his other children.<sup>11/</sup>

Thus Deborah and her mother Ruth lived at Green Spring Punch. Ruth died in 1834. Three years later Deborah married Henry Stevenson of Frederick County and they lived at Green Spring Punch which, on an 1857 map, was called Oakland Cottage.<sup>12/</sup> It seems likely that they built the stone cottage which still stands today. The Stevenson name remains in the Valley through the community name of Stevenson, the Stevenson Railroad Station, the Stevenson Post Office, the Stevenson Methodist Church, and even Stevenson Road.

The 1850 Census listed Deborah and Henry Stevenson, both age 58, as farmers with real estate valued at \$8,000.<sup>13/</sup> According to the 1860 Census their property had increased in value to \$13,000.<sup>14/</sup>

Deborah Stevenson died in 1864 and by her will the estate went to her husband for his natural life.<sup>15/</sup> At his death in 1868, according to the term's of Deborah's will, the estate of 171 acres was sold to the Ashland Iron Company for \$29,060.<sup>16/</sup>

On 26 March 1880 arrangements were made for the Stevenson family graveyard, "owned originally by the ancestors of the Owings family," to be removed from Green Spring Punch. James Winchester Owings, executor for Deborah, paid the Company \$150 to furnish teams to convey the remains and tombstones to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church cemetery.<sup>17/</sup>

The Ashland Iron Company owned the property for about twenty years. The 1877 Atlas of Baltimore County shows George Wisner, a farmer, as the occupant of the property.<sup>18/</sup> The company eventually shut down and sold all its Valley holdings. On 17 June 1890, 183 3/4 acres, primarily the Stevenson land, were sold to Dr. William Lee.<sup>19/</sup>

Lee, a Baltimore native and graduate of the University of Maryland Medical School, was a professor and later Dean of the Baltimore Medical School. He was also the surgeon-general for Maryland. He and his wife Ella Mathias had four children.20/ It is believed that Dr. Lee was the one who built the large three-story frame house on the estate he now called Green Spring or Green Spring Valley Farm. The house contained 17 rooms, each quite large with high ceilings. Eight fireplaces, four on each of the first two floors, served as the main source of heat.

Dr. Lee died at his Stevenson residence in 1898 and two years later his widow and children sold the place to T. Dudley Riggs.21/ In 1907 Riggs sold the then 144 3/4 acres to William Irving Cross.22/ It was during this Bachelor's ownership that the farm and frame house became known as the Punch Farm, in honor of a noteworthy punch Mr. Cross was said to have produced in his stone barn.

Cross died in the early 1930s and by his will the land was sold.23/ Twenty-four acres and the buildings went to Charlotte M. Ober in 1934.24/ She and her husband Hambleton sold it in 1938 to Thomas W. and Helen (Payne) Harrison, Jr. 25/

When the Harrisons sold the property to Samuel Berg in 1956, they rented the little stone cottage and remodeled it after years of neglect.26/ After the Bergs acquired the property, they built a contemporary home on the land.27/ Both the frame house and cottage were rented.



Green Spring Punch  
(Punch Farm / Berg Farm)

Footnotes

- 1/ Patent Liber D.D. no. 5, fol. 63, Hall of Records (HR), Annapolis, Maryland.
- 2/ Baltimore County Wills (BCW), Liber A., fol. 97, HR.
- 3/ BCW, Liber A., fol. 237, HR.
- 4/ St. Paul's Parish Register (Baltimore City), 1: 50, Maryland Historical Society (MHS), Baltimore, Maryland.
- 5/ Assessment Book of Sheriff Aquila Hall, c. 1763/4, fol. 4, MS. 1565, MHS.
- 6/ BCW, Liber 3, fol. 299, HR.
- 7/ Baltimore County Inventories (BCI), Liber 11, fol. 305, HR.
- 8/ Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber W.G. no. E.E., fols. 473, 475, HR.
- 9/ BCW, Liber G., fol. 197, HR.
- 10/ Federal Tax Assessment Record for Back River Upper Hundred, Baltimore County, 1798, fol. 1201, MHS.
- 11/ BCW, Liber 13, fol. 115, HR.
- 12/ Baltimore American, 29 May 1837; Robert Taylor, Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Actual Surveys (Baltimore: Robert Taylor Publishing Co., 1857), collection of MHS.
- 13/ United States Census for Baltimore County, District One, 1850, house 2520, family 2667, MHS.
- 14/ United States Census for Baltimore County, District Three, 1860, fol. 333, MHS.
- 15/ BCW, Liber J. L. R. no. 2, fol. 410, Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland.
- 16/ American and Commercial Advertiser. 10 June 1868; BCLR, Liber E. H. A. no 68, fol. 353, Towson.

- 17/ BCLR, Liber W. M. I. n. 117, fol. 93, Towson.
- 18/ For additional information on the Ashland Iron Company, see Volume one, part one, chapter four Dawn R. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978); G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Three.
- 19/ BCLR, Liber J. W. S. no. 180, fol. 390, Towson.
- 20/ Eugene Fauntleroy Cordell, The Medical Annals of Maryland 1799-1899 (Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co., 1903) p.475.
- 21/ Ibid.; BCLR, Liber W.P.C. no. 310, fol. 512, Towson.
- 22/ Telephone conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Harrison, Jr., 5 November 1974.
- 23/ BCW, Liber I. P. C. no. 28, fol. 333, Towson.
- 24/ BCLR, Liber C. W. B. Jr., no. 933, fol. 465, Towson.
- 25/ BCLR, Liber C. W. B., Jr., no. 1043, fol. 159, Towson.
- 26/ BCLR, Liber G. L. B. no. 2962, fol. 278, Towson; telephone conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Harrison.
- 27/ Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Berg, 14 November 1974.

#### Bibliography

Thomas, Dawn F. and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 volumes. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1978)  
 Baltimore County Wills, Towson, Maryland  
 Baltimore County Land Records, Towson, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A./Dawn F. Thomas, Historian

2-10-80

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7808

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue, Towson,

Maryland 21204

CITY OR TOWN

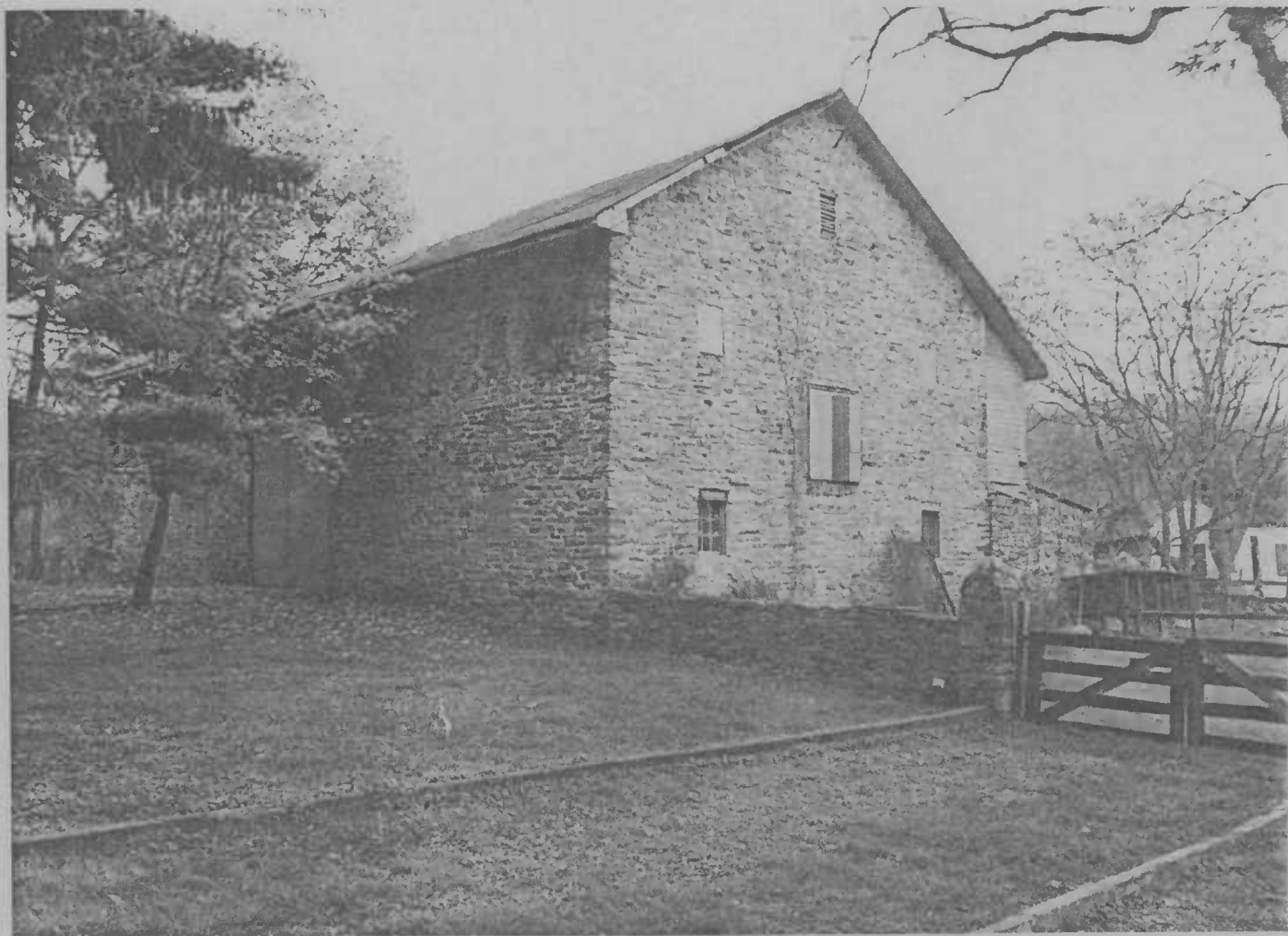
STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

## GREEN SPRING PUNCH



Stone Barn on the Samuel Berg Property

March 1791. This couple lived at Green Spring Punch, but it is not known if they lived there with Urath Owings for the nine months preceding her death or whether they moved in afterward. They were there by 1798, when he was listed as paying the taxes on the land. In 1803 Samuel Owings, Jr., died, and by his will officially left this land to his son.<sup>7</sup>

In 1798 Samuel Owings III was listed as the owner of 849 acres of land for which he was taxed \$5,945. Besides the 286 acres of *Green Spring Punch*, he also owned 133 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres of three tracts, *Urath's Fancy*, *Severn*, and *Come By Chance*, which he had acquired in 1791 in a tripartite division with his two cousins. There were also 430 acres of three other tracts, *Cockey's Folly*, *Helmore Resurveyed*, and *Cockey's Trust*,

which his wife held in her own right. In addition he owned eleven Negro slaves.<sup>8</sup>

He was also taxed for buildings on the land. Those that appear to have been situated on *Green Spring Punch* were: 1 log stable, 22 x 28 feet; 1 frame stable, 12 x 16 feet; 1 corn house, 12 x 30 feet; 1 frame granary, 20 x 52 feet; 1 old frame dwelling, 1 story, 16 x 40 feet; 1 log kitchen, 16 x 20 feet; hen house; meat house, 10 x 12 feet; 1 Negro house, 16 x 18 feet; and 1 stone barn, 40 x 80 feet. The only one of these buildings still in existence is the large barn, 40 feet 4 inches x 80 feet  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, which stands on Samuel Berg's property. To the north of the barn is a stone dwelling to which additions have been made on the front and back. The stone portion itself, two rooms down and two up,

## HISTORIC HOUSES



Stone Cottage on the Samuel Berg Property

measures 20 feet 3 inches x 40 feet 4 inches. All of the walls are 18 inches thick. Back-to-back fireplaces once heated the downstairs rooms, and it is thought the upper floor was reached by a narrow stair that wound its way around the fireplace. It faces east and once had a small porch. Since this stone building is not listed on the tax list, it was obviously built later, probably by the Stevensons around 1837. About 20 feet to the northeast of the little house is a 10 x 12 foot building that is today the pump house. Sitting about two feet above the ground on a stone foundation, the crumbling interior reveals a brick building covered with stucco—rather like a dairy. Immediately to the east of the little house, perhaps 400 feet away, is a two-story smokehouse, 20 x 20 feet, the bottom floor built of stone and the second story of wood or frame. Inside, one can still see the old wooden hooks from which the meat was hung. The Harrisons, who later owned the property, were under the impression that the barn and stone cottage were at least 200 years old.<sup>9</sup>

When Samuel Owings III died in 1828, his

will stipulated that his wife Ruth was to have "one-third of my dwelling plantation which I hold in my own right—to be laid off so as to include the dwelling—barn, saw mill and other improvements attached to my present residence." The wording of this will and the existence and positioning of the buildings on the Berg property support the belief that it was here rather than on the Baetjer property that the Owings family lived. Furthermore, the Baetjer house is about one-half mile west of these structures, and the question naturally arises why anyone would want to build their home so far from their outbuildings. Owings further stipulated in his will that at the death of his wife this portion of the estate was to go to their daughter Deborah. The remaining two-thirds of the dwelling plantation were to be divided between his other two daughters, Hannah and Urath. His sons were to receive equal thirds of the tract *Lystra* which Ruth (Cockey) Owings had patented and owned in her own right.<sup>10</sup>

Samuel Owings' heirs divided the estate in accordance with the terms of the will. Ruth and

## HISTORIC HOUSES



The Punch Farm House (Green Spring Valley Farm House)

gate to the diocesan convention from 1838 to 1856.<sup>16</sup>

The Ashland Iron Company owned this and other adjacent land for about twenty years. The 1877 atlas shows the company as owning the former Green Spring Punch, with George Wisner, a farmer and native of Baltimore County, as the occupant. The company eventually closed down and sold its Valley holdings. On 17 June 1890, 183¾ acres, primarily the old Stevenson and Owings land, were sold to Dr. William Lee.<sup>17</sup>

Lee was born in Baltimore County in 1844. He received his medical degree in 1856 from the University of Maryland and settled in Baltimore where he was "Professor of Diseases, of Children, and later Dean, of the Baltimore Medical College." He was also the surgeon-general of Maryland. He married Ella Mathias and had at least four children—Mary, Ella, William, and Mildred. It is believed that it was Dr. Lee who built the large three-story frame house on his estate which he called Green Spring or Green

Spring Valley Farm. This dwelling still stands on the Berg property about 400 feet east-southeast of the little stone building described earlier, and directly south of the smokehouse. The house contains seventeen rooms, each quite large, with very high ceilings. There are also eight fireplaces, four on each of the first two floors. A wide veranda sweeps across the front, which faces south, and around the west side.<sup>18</sup>

Dr. Lee died at his Stevenson residence on 16 April 1898, and two years later his widow and children sold the estate to T. Dudley Riggs.<sup>19</sup> On 2 April 1907 the Riggs sold the property, 144¾ acres, to William Irving Cross. It was during this bachelor's ownership that the farm and large frame house became known as the Punch Farm, in honor of a noteworthy punch Mr. Cross was said to have produced in his stone barn. The drink was as popular as his large and well-attended parties, especially those in celebration of the Maryland Hunt Cup.<sup>20</sup>

Cross died in the early 1930s, and by his will Redmond C. Stewart was appointed trustee and



